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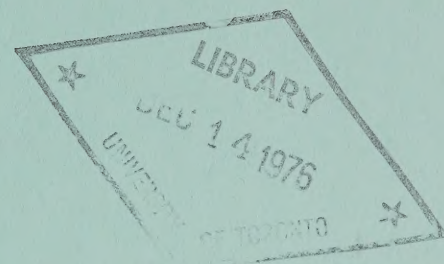
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Publications

ONTARIO COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

OPEN MEETING WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

APRIL 18, 1975

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ONTARIO COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

MINUTES

5-0050 MEETING

OPEN MEETING WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

LOCATION

University of Guelph

DATE AND TIME

April 18th, 1975  
2:15 p.m.

5-0051 ATTENDANCE

OCUA MEMBERS

J. S. Dupré

W. E. Bagnall

L. Good

M. A. B. Bush

T. R. Léger

A. D'Iorio

A. L. McCallion

P. D. Fleck

R. P. Riggan

R. Gerstein

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OCUA STAFF

J. P. Venton  
Executive Secretary

N. E. Simmons  
Associate Secretary

MCU Observer

E. Tannis  
University Affairs Officer

GUELPH DELEGATION

W. C. Winegard  
President

W. W. Lasby  
Chairman, Board of Governors





Members of the Senate Committee on Academic Priorities

R. C. Anderson  
Professor of Zoology

W. W. Bean  
Vice-President Administration

J. F. Bligh  
Professor of English

T. Hawkins  
Undergraduate Student

D. G. Ingram  
Associate Dean  
Ontario Veterinary College

M. B. Phillips  
Professor of Consumer Studies

J. P. Smith  
Vice-President Academic

J. W. Tanner  
Professor of Crop Science

Advisors to the Senate Committee on Academic Priorities

D. M. Jamison  
Research Advisor to the  
Vice-President Administration

W. N. Vaughan  
Assistant to the  
Vice-President Academic

R. D. Lockie  
Research Assistant to the  
Vice-President Academic

Advisors for the Presentation of the Brief

H. S. Armstrong  
Dean of Graduate Studies

M. Beckman  
Chief Librarian

N. V. Bowen  
Professor of Psychology

W. A. Brown  
Director of Physical Resources

R. P. Gilmor  
Provost

K. Okashimo  
Director  
Institute of Computing Science

N. M. Sullivan  
Comptroller

W. E. Tossell  
Dean of Research





The President opened the hearing by reading sections of the introduction to the brief. He stressed Guelph's dismay at the inconsistency between the Minister's stated objectives and the increase for 1975-76 in the BIU value. He emphasized as well the inequity over recent years of forcing universities to cope with a rapid series of crises without being given time to plan for change.

In addition to items dealt with in detail in the University's brief, subsequent discussion focused on the following:

FORMULA REVISION

Adoption of a common weight of 1.24 for Arts and Science undergraduates would have been to Guelph's detriment in that the actual average weight for such students approximates 1.25. It was not felt that formula weights had directed university emphasis to particular undergraduate programmes, nor had they affected enrolment distribution.

The delegation felt it critical that small universities receive research funding related to graduate student enrolment but noted that better cost data were required before any steps in this direction were taken.

Guelph had no objection to enrolment desensitization of the formula. The University had originally intended to grow to a maximum of 11,000 students but now planned to approach this objective more slowly. The delegation noted that Guelph had incurred a loss through the introduction of slip-year financing and that if a base year enrolment were required under a revised formula, 1975-76 be used. It was stressed that before growth was discounted current enrolment required adequate funding. Furthermore it was felt that if the Minister seriously believed that universities had grown too large through diminished standards, further growth should not be funded.





The delegation elaborated on a cooperative costing project being carried out in collaboration with three other universities. It was stressed that although technically programme costing was not a difficult undertaking, cooperation of the university community was difficult to achieve in a situation where little free time existed and where administrative support had been cut back.

Guelph's aim in this endeavour had been to analyse its own programme costs and the delegation expressed no interest in comparing such costs among universities.

5-0054

#### TUITION FEES

In elaboration of the position taken in the University's brief the delegation explained that the rationale behind its stand was to promote university flexibility without harming students. No reason could be seen why OSAP fee levels could not be set by the Ministry with universities having the prerogative to charge in excess of that amount. Also noted was the contradiction inherent in the system when diversity among institutions was an objective but where tuition fees were constant across the board. The delegation felt that an alternative whereby assessed fees would be funded by OSAP with differentials above the formula fee being charged against operating revenue of the university deserved further consideration.

5-0055

#### ACCESSIBILITY AND ADMISSIONS

Guelph's downward revision of 1975-76 enrolment forecasts had been precipitated by two factors: housing and teaching facility limitations; and uncertainties concerning potential formula revisions. With regard to the latter the delegation stressed that the University had suffered a substantial loss through the introduction of slip-year financing and the potential for growth desensitization of the formula could be expected to duplicate such losses for any institution showing a significant enrolment increase in the year in





which such a revised formula were introduced. The University had established upper limits on every programme's enrolment for the future, commencing in 1975-76. Major cutbacks in the proposed growth of science and agricultural entrants was attributable primarily to the creation of a desirable university profile combined with a situation where laboratory space could not be expanded.

The delegation recognized that progress toward two-tier institutional quality stratification within the system would be accelerated by enrolment controls in programmes for which there was high student demand. It was queried whether in view of the expected decline in numbers of students in the 1980's universities should concentrate for the present on accessibility with hopes of recouping standards when the numbers of age - eligible individuals receded. The Guelph delegation felt that this would not be possible in a situation where physical facilities could not support further growth.

It was noted that most students in the DVM programme did their undergraduate work at Guelph and that a small number of places were reserved for students from developing countries and the Maritimes. Although the University was unable to assess whether students knowingly entered Guelph undergraduate programmes in order to improve their chances for entry into the DVM programme, students who had had exposure to veterinary medicine generally fared better during subjective interviews. The interview process concentrated on student motivation, understanding of the significance of veterinary medicine, commitment to the field, and the ability to articulate.

It was noted that approximately 900 courses were offered in grade 13 across the Province and that at present universities had to attempt to assess each. The delegation felt that achievement/skill tests in English and mathematics to be taken by all university





applicants would be an approach preferable to reintroduction of departmental examinations. An alternate option which was noted in the brief was a reintroduction of secondary school prerequisites. The delegation expressed concern that the latter could tend to disenfranchise disadvantaged students.

5-0056

STATUS OF WOMEN

Council learned that approximately 1/3 of applicants, entrants and graduates of the DVM programme were women.

It was noted that women faculty and administrative staff tended to occupy primarily lower ranks and classifications. The delegation cautioned that any investigation into sex discrimination should involve examination of both salary discrepancies and, equally important, criteria such as the number of uninterrupted years of employment. It was also felt that renewed energy should be placed on the promotion of equal opportunities for women and on removing traditional discipline orientation.

5-0057

GRADUATE STUDENT SUPPORT

14% of graduate students at Guelph received no support. Differentials in the level of graduate teaching assistance support within the university resulted from differences in departmental fund availability. In the science areas it was pointed out that some students received teaching assistantships simultaneously with research assistantships.

5-0058

SYSTEM-WIDE COORDINATION

The delegation reported that OUAC was now being used for spring semester applicants at Guelph.

With regard to library coordination it was noted that the catalogue support system project would be completed on April 30 at which time data would be analyzed. The results and report would then be submitted to both the Minister and OCUA.

In the computing area the delegation reported that during the





period 1970-71 to 1975-76 the computing budget per unit at Guelph had been reduced 35%. It was felt that universities throughout the system were now moving toward small cooperative computing projects as a result of fiscal austerity and increased needs.

5-0059

MACRO-INDICATORS

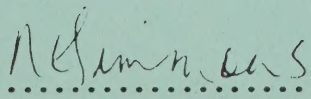
In the discussion on macro-indicators it was pointed out that system-wide diversity of programme offerings had produced a situation wherein only a limited number of functions in each programme area could be compared among universities let alone attempting to compare Ontario programmes with those offered in other jurisdictions. Hence, it was stressed that data used as macro-indicators should be as general and comparable as possible.

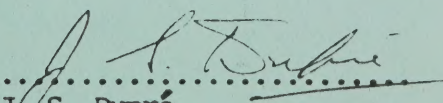
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FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

In the discussion of the budget for 1975-76 (appended to the University's brief) the delegation pointed out that the format used (ie. COFO-UO) tended to mask budget dynamics.

It was noted in particular that Ministry of Agriculture and Food funding for 1975-76 had grown proportionately more than MCU funding. The requested increases of 12% for salaries and 20% for supplies had been granted. Furthermore, Guelph would receive additional funding for the mounting of new programmes from OMAF.

  
.....  
N. E. Simmons  
Associate Secretary

  
.....  
J. S. Dupré  
Chairman



